

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS,

SUBJECT: ANERA PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON RECENT MEETINGS WITH
GOI OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: ANERA PRESIDENT GUBSER IN MEETING WITH AID AND
STATE OFFICIALS MAY 31 SAID GOI TURNDOWN OF MOST ANERA PRO-
JECTS WAS BASED ON THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL NATURE RATHER THAN
FACT THAT ANERA WAS SPONSORING VOLAG. PROJECTS RECOMMENDED
TO ANERA BY GOI WERE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WELFARE ORIENTED.
ANERA ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH GOI BUREAUCRACY IN WEST
BANK IN DEVELOPING ITS OWN PROJECTS, AND THEREFORE GOI'S
REQUEST FOR EARLIER CONSULTATION BY ANERA IN IDENTIFYING
PROJECTS DID NOT SEEM VALID TO HIM. HE APPRECIATED EMBASSY/
CONGEN SUPPORT BUT FELT AN OFFICIAL APPROACH TO ISRAELIS ON
PROJECT APPROVALS NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME. HE REMAINED OP-
TIMISTIC THAT MOST PROJECTS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE APPROVED
DESPITE HIS GENERALLY NEGATIVE VIEW OF GOI INTENTIONS IN
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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

1. PETER GUBSER AND ROBERT FISHER OF ANERA CAME IN TO BRIEF
AID/NE/TECH MAY 31 ON STATUS OF 1978 PROPOSED PROGRAM IN
WEST BANK/GAZA. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO AREA GUBSER MET
WITH COL. MILSON (POLITICAL AND ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO
MILGOV), DR. AVITSOUR AND NEW MILITARY GOVERNOR, GEN. BEN-

ELEIZER. GUBSER SAID HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS WOULD EVENTUALLY APPROVE MOST OF ANERA'S PROPOSED PROJECTS. HE FELT THAT PATTERN OF TURNDOWNS INDICATED THAT ISRAELIS OBJECTED MORE TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL NATURE OF ANERA PROJECT PROPOSALS THAN TO ANERA AS AN ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT NEW WEST BANK MIL GOVERNOR, GEN. BEN-ELEIZER HAD SPECIFICALLY PROMISED TO REVIEW ALL PROJECTS INCLUDING THOSE ALREADY TURNED DOWN.

2. GUBSER SAID ISRAELIS PRESENTED ANERA WITH THREE PAGE LIST OF PROJECT SUGGESTIONS BUT THAT FORTY PERCENT OF THESE WERE IN UNRWA CAMPS AND TWENTY PERCENT WERE SCHOOL ROOMS FOR REMOTE VILLAGES. ONE PROJECT INVOLVED A WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR URBAN CENTER, BUT ON EXAMINATION THE MUNICIPALITY CONCERNED WAS FOUND TO HAVE A NEWLY APPOINTED (BY GOI) GOVERNMENT. ANERA WAS NOT DISPOSED TO ACCEPT SUCH PROJECTS. GUBSER SAID HIS IMPRESSION THAT MILGOV RATHER THAN CIVILIAN ISRAELI MINISTRIES MADE THE DECISIONS ON WHICH PROJECTS TO ACCEPT AND THAT MSW WAS LITTLE MORE THAN AN INTERMEDIARY. HE SAID IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT SECURITY GROUNDS WERE NEVER CITED AS REASON FOR TURNDOWN OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL. APPROVALS, WHEN THEY CAME, WERE VERBAL, NOT WRITTEN AND CAME THROUGH AVITSOUR RATHER THAN DIRECTLY FROM MILGOV TO ANERA. GUBSER SAID ANERA ALWAYS TRIED TO LINE UP LOCAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECT BEFORE FORMALLY

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SUBMITTING TO ISRAELIS TO ENSURE PROJECT WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED. WHILE HE REALIZED THIS COULD MAKE TURNDOWN MORE DIFFICULT FOR ISRAELIS, HE POINTED OUT THAT ANERA WORKED CLOSELY WITH LOWER-LEVEL PALESTINIAN EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS ISRAELI MINISTRIES IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS, AND HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE, HOW AVITSOUR AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS FELT THEY WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CONSULTED IN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.

3. COMMENTING ON EMBASSY SUPPORT FOR ANERA, GUBSER SAID HE AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS' PREFERENCE NOT TO HAVE VOLAGS' PROBLEMS RAISED TO POLITICAL LEVEL EXCEPT AS LAST RESORT. ACCORDINGLY, ANERA WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK APPROVALS FROM WORKING LEVEL PEOPLE IN MIL GOV AND MIN SOC WELFARE RATHER THAN REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE APPROACH TO GOI AT A HIGHER LEVEL.

4. ON GENERAL QUESTION OF ISRAELI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, GUBSER SAID MUCH HARDER LINE BEING TAKEN BY ISRAELIS IN DEALING WITH WEST BANKERS. HE CITED PROHIBITIONS ON MEETINGS OF MAYORS, INCREASE IN ARRESTS, ISRAELI NEWSPAPER ARTICLE COMPLAINING OF "AMERICAN INSURGENCY IN

WEST BANK" (THIS IN CONNECTION WITH FLAP OVER CONGEN OFFICER'S VISIT TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENT), AND REFUSAL OF MIL GOV

TO RENEW RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR EXPATRIATE PROFESSORS AT BIR ZEIT.

5. COMMENT: GUBSER'S STATEMENT THAT GOI OBJECTED MORE TO DEVELOPMENTAL NATURE OF ANERA PROJECTS THAN TO ANERA ITSELF COULD BE SELF-SERVING, BUT IF TRUE, WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM GENERAL HARDENING OF GOI POLICY VIS-A-VIS INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF WEST BANK ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT GUBSER'S OPTIMISM RELATIVE TO GOI PROJECT APPROVAL WILL BE CONFIRMED IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT THIS APPEARS QUESTIONABLE IF GUBSER'S ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL GOI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS ACCURATE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
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